



February 20, 2020

Senator Tom Brewer, Chair
Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Nebraska Legislature

RE: LB935

Chairman Brewer and Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I represent First Five Nebraska, a statewide early childhood policy organization. On behalf of First Five Nebraska, I write this letter in support of LB935.

First Five Nebraska applauds Senator Megan Hunt's efforts on LB935, which would amend current statute and allow an elected official to utilize campaign funds for child care expenses incurred while carrying out the duties of his or her office. As an example, a Nebraska State Senator's annual salary is \$12,000. However, the average annual cost of infant care in Nebraska is \$12,571, in all respects making it financially impossible to both serve in the Nebraska Legislature and cover the cost of care solely from a member's annual salary.

Although we understand many elected officials have second jobs to provide additional income or may have other financial resources available, allowing office holders to utilize these funds for child care expenses if they so choose, would provide another option in the process of them meeting the responsibilities of both their jobs as a parent and as public servants to their constituents. In addition, this bill also would be helpful in ensuring future Nebraskans interested in seeking elected office and being a part of the democratic process are not discouraged from doing so simply because of the cost of child care.

Again, we thank Senator Hunt for her leadership and dedication in ensuring working mothers and fathers, eager to take on the challenges of public office, can do so. We hope you will advance LB935 to General File.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jason Prokop". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Jason Prokop
Director
First Five Nebraska